

Message Text

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12
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

PC-04 XMB-07 RSR-01 /150 W
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R 121706Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMCONSUL TANGIER
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMNAVTRACOM
NAVCOMSTA SIDA YAHIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3205

E.O. 11652
TAGS: PFOR MO
SUBJ: US-MOROCCAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR JULY 11 PRESENTED FONMIN WITH AIDE MEMOIRE IN RESPONSE GO GOM'S REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING INTENTIONS OF USG IN AID FIELD; AIDE MEMOIRE SHOWED US EXPECTS PROVIDE MOROCCO OVER NEXT TWELVE MONTHS WITH MINIMUM OF APPROXIMATELY US \$50 MILLION IN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WHILE THANKING USG FOR MAJOR EFFORT IT HAD MADE TO COME UP WITH THESE FIGURES, FONMIN EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT LEVEL DID NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEED NORMAL ANNUAL AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE, THEREFORE NOT PROVIDING AMOUNT HOPED FOR BY GOM TO JUSTIFY CONTINUING PRESENCE US MILITARY FACILITIES MOROCCO. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 11 I HANDED TO FONMIN BENHIMA AN AIDE MEMOIRE (TEXT BY POUCH) SUMMARIZING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANCE WHICH USG EXPECTS BE ABLE PROVIDE MOROCCO OVER NEXT TWELVE MONTHS. PROJECTS LISTED TOTALED MINIMUM OF APPROXIMATELY US \$50 MILLION AND CONSISTED OF ITEMS LISTED STATE 126929, PLUS \$9 MILLION PL-480 TITLE II

WHICH US HOPED BE ABLE EXTEND TO ENTRE'AIDE NATIONALE AND \$1 MILLION PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS. SEPARATELY MENTIONED WAS CONTINUATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS TOTALING DH 13,500,000.

3. AFTER REFERRING TO RECENT HIGH-LEVEL US-MOROCCAN CONVERSATION IN WASHINGTON AND IN RABAT AND TO REITERATED DECLARATIONS OF IMPORTANCE WHICH US ATTACHES TO ITS RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO, I SAID THAT EFFORT TO ASSEMBLE AN AID TOTAL OF THIS SIZE FOR MOROCCO AT A TIME OF SEVERE LIMITATIONS UPON US FOREIGN AID RESOURCES REPRESENTED A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AND CLEARLY ISSUSTRATED OUR DESIRE TO SUPPORT MOROCCO AND SPECIFICALLY MILITARY AND ECONOMIC PROJGRAMS OF KING HASSAN. I COULD ASSURE BENHIMA, AND BELIEVED AMBASSADOR SENOUSI WOULD CONFIRM, THAT USG HAD RESPONDED TO MOROCCAN INITIATIVE CONCERNING GLOBAL ASSISTANCE WITH UTMOST GOOD WILL. I THOUGH RESULT WAS IMPRESSIVE MANIFESTATION OF OUR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL; TOTAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH US CONTRIBUTIONS VIA MULTILATERAL CHANNELS SUCH AS IBRD AND WITH READINESS OF US TO PROVIDE EXIMBANK FINANCING. I ALSO MENTIONED OUR OFFER PROVIDE ONE LST ON VERY ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS. PL-480 SITUATION WAS NOT YET CLEAR, MOREOVER, AND FIVE YEAR PLAN AND NEW INVESTMENT CODE WERE NOT YET OUT.

4. AFTER EXAMINING TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE, BENHIMA STATED THAT TOTAL AMOUNT OF AID DID NOT EXCEED THAT WHICH USG HAS BEEN PROVIDING ANNUALLY IN PAST. GOM WAS GRATEFUL FOR EFFORT WHICH USG HAD MADE IN PRESENT RESTRICTED CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THIS RESPONSE TO GOM APPROACHES WAS NOT WHAT HAD BEEN HOPED FOR, AS IT DID NOT PROVIDE AN INCREASE OF SIZE WHICH COULD BE USED TO JUSTIFY CONTINUATION OF US MILITARY FACILITIES IN MOROCCO. SOME SOLUTION HAD TO BE FOUND TO POLITICAL DISADVANTAGE OF THOSE FACILITIES. AS HE HAS IN PAST, BENHIMA ASKED WHETHER USG COULD NOT ASK CONGRESS FOR AUTHORIZATION PAY RENTAL FOR FACILITIES. I STATED MY PERSONAL VIEW THAT CURRENT NEGATIVE VIEW IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CONGRESS TOWARD OVERSEAS MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN SUCH AUTHORIZATION. BENHIMA THEN WONDERED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO EXPAND SEVERAL ITEMS IN AIDE MEMOIRE TO OBTAIN THE "\$10 OR \$15 MILLION" WHICH COULD BE USED TO JUSTIFY OUR MILITARY PRESENCE. I NOTED THAT AIDE MEMOIRE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING \$10 MILLION US INVESTMENT GUARANTY AGREEMENT TO \$20 MILLION OVER NEXT FEW YEARS DEPENDING ON UTILIZATION OF FIRST \$10 MILLION AND MOROCCAN DESIRE FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE OF THIS NATURE. I ALSO REFERRED TO UNDERTERMINED SITUATION GOVERNING PL-480 TITLE I SALES.

5. I REITERATED MY VIEW THAT AIDE MEMOIRE REFLECTED A

REMARKABLE EFFORT ON BEHALF OF MOROCCO IN DIFFICULT TIMES. I SAID THAT GOM SEEMED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO HABIT OF THINKING THAT USG WOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN SAME LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE YEAR AFTER YEAR; THIS SIMPLY WAS NOT CASE; FACT WAS THAT FOREIGN AID FUNDS WERE DWINDLING YEAR AFTER YEAR AND THAT MOROCCO, OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY, WOULD BE QUITE WRONG IN BELIEF THAT THERE COULD BE ANY DRAMATIC INCREASES IN US ASSISTANCE IN FUTURE. WE KNEW THAT CONTINUATION OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN MOROCCO DEPENDED ENTIRELY UPON GOOD WILL AND GENEROSITY OF KING HASSAN; WE RECOGNIZED THAT PRESENCE OF THESE FACILITIES HAD NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR MOROCCO. THEY WERE, HOWEVER, PART OF REASON WHY WE HAD SUCH INTEREST IN THIS COUNTRY AND WE HOPED THAT GOM WOULD COME TO REALIZE WHAT A MAJOR EFFORT USG WAS MAKING TO MANIFEST THAT INTEREST AT A MOST DIFFICULT TIME. I WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF, IN FUTURE, AID RESOURCES SITUATION WOULD EASE FOR USG, PARTICULARLY AFTER PASSAGE OF NEW AID LEGISLATION AND CLARIFICATION OF AGRICULTURE SALES SITUATION, SUCH CHANGE WOULD BE REFLECTED IN FUTURE US AID EFFORT HERE.

6. BENHIMA SAID BASIC PROBLEM WAS GOM'S NEED FOR MASSIVE ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN. KING DESIRED TO BRING ABOUT MAJOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RENOVATION OF MOROCCO AND GOM COUNTED HEAVILY ON ITS FRIENDS TO HELP. IN EARLY AUTUMN MINISTER OF COOPERATION DR. MOHAMED BENHIMA WOULD PROCEED WASHINGTON TO OUTLINE NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN TO IBRD AND USG AND SEEK ENLIST SUPPORT
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THEREFORE. MAYBE BY THAT TIME NEW AID LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE BEEN PASSED BY CONGRESS AND USG WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO FORECAST ITS POSSIBLE AID CONTRIBUTIONS TO MOROCCO. MEANWHILE HE WOULD DISCUSS AIDE MEMOIRE WITH APPROPRIATE GOM TECHNICIANS.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE ALL WORK DONE ON MOROCCANS BY DEPARTMENT AND THIS EMBASSY, BENHIMA REACTION REFLECTS CONTINUING GOM CONVICTION THAT IF USG REALLY WANTED TO, IT COULD FIND FUNDS TO INCREASE ITS AID TO MOROCCO. MASSIVE USG ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL, ESPIE RESTRICTIONS ON AID RESOURCES, REMAINS EVER IN BACK OF GOM'S MIND.

8. THIS IS FIRST TIME WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY ANY RESPONSIBLE MOROCCAN AUTHORITY AN IDEA OF WHAT AMOUNT OF AID GOM MIGHT CONSIDER WOULD JUSTIFY CONTINUING US MILITARY PRESENCE. \$10 OR \$15 MILLION, ON ANNUAL BASIS OF COURSE, IS LESS THAN I FOR ONE THOUGHT THEY HAD IN MIND. HOWEVER, EVEN IF RESOURCE SITUATION SHOULD EASE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO PL-480, SUFFICIENTLY TO PROVIDE THIS AMOUNT THIS YEAR, PROBLEMS WOULD REMAIN OF ACCEPTING PRINCIPLE OF INDIRECT RENTAL FOR KENITRA FACILITIES AND OF PROVID-

ING ACCEPTABLE AMOUNT ON ANNUAL BASIS.
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